GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6768
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
DISPOSAL OF ASH
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that huge amount of water is wasted in disposing off the ash generated from thermal power plants and environment also gets polluted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : Domestic coal has high ash content which leads to generation of large quantities of ash. Efforts have been made by the Government to promote alternate uses of ash in construction industries. The unutilized ash is required to be disposed of in the ash ponds using water slurry mixture. This requires use of water. However, much of this water is recycled back to the thermal power station and reused in ash handling system.

Following measures are being adopted to reduce water requirement for ash disposal and reduce resultant pollution:

Utilisation of fly ash is being promoted under National Fly Ash Mission so as to reduce quantum of ash to be disposed of.

Low grade/ waste water, available in the plant, is used for ash disposal and generally, no fresh water is drawn from source water body for ash disposal. Recirculation and reuse of water in ash disposal is adopted so as to reduce net requirement of water for ash disposal. Typically, 70% of water is recycled from ash pond.

Higher concentration slurry systems are adopted on case to case basis for ash disposal to reduce quantity of water for ash disposal.

Use of washed coal with lower ash content is promoted in thermal power plant which also results in reduced ash generation requiring less quantity of water for ash disposal.

Supercritical power plants with high thermal efficiency are encouraged resulting in reduced coal consumption and consequently reduced requirement of water for ash disposal.